

NZ Invertebrates: ID guide for students

How many legs does the invertebrate have?















No legs

Snails, slugs and worms

Molluscs	
Snails Soft, slimy bodies Hard shell	
Slugs Soft, slimy bodies No shell	
Annelids	
Earthworms Long, thin bodies No shell Rings/ segments around body	
Other worms	
Do not have segments and can be different shapes (e.g. flatworms and round worms)	


6 legs

Insects [ALL insects have 6 legs, 2 antennae/ feelers and a 3-part body (head- thorax- and abdomen)]. Some insect groups:

Beetles		Crickets & grasshoppers	
Bees and wasps		Ants	
Bees		Dragonflies	
Wasps		Butterflies and moths	
Wētā		Flies	
Cockroaches		Mosquitoes	
Stick insects		Cicadas	

8 legs

Arachnids (Spiders, harvestmen, mites and ticks)






Spiders	
Harvestmen	
Mites and ticks	

Mite photo: Alastair Robertson and Mantia Minor, Massey University

Not sure about which bug you found? This guide only covers some of our thousands of invertebrate species in New Zealand.

More than 8 legs

Myriapods, crustaceans and other

Myriapods		
Centipedes		
Millipedes		
Crustaceans		
Isopods: Slaters		
Amphipods: Hoppers		
Other		
Caterpillars & larvae	Although caterpillars have many legs (if you look closely) they are insects not myriapods or crustaceans. Being a caterpillar is just one part of their life cycle. As adults they will only have 6 legs.	



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